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The Community of Opportunity

Partnership for Economic Development

LLWC 2 440 S. 8th St., Ste. 100 2 Lincoln NE 68508 2 (402) 441-7716

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bonnie Coffey, director, 402/441-8695

Margie Kniep, 402/441-7716

2nd ANNUAL READY TO RUNJ WORKSHOP PREPARES WOMEN FOR POLITICAL OFFICE

Nonpartisan Workshop Designed Especially for Women Wanting to Run for an Elected Office

Described as an innovative, nonpartisan and inclusive program to support women gaining access to leadership and public policy positions, the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission (LLWC) and Women's Fund of Greater Omaha (WFGO) will be co-hosting the 2nd annual day-long workshop for women interested in running for elected office.

Ready to RunJ is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 14, 2006, at the Nebraska Methodist College, 720 N. 87th Street, Omaha. The workshop will be held in the Josie Harper Campus – Clark Center located at the corner of 87th & Burt. The day begins with a complimentary breakfast at 8 a.m. and adjourns at 3:30 p.m. The registration fee is \$25 and includes a networking luncheon program. Deadline for mandatory pre-registration is Wednesday, October 6, 2005. Seating is limited. Call LLWC at 441-7716 for a registration packet.

At noon, a lunch with roundtable discussion will be held featuring Nebraska women who have served or are currently serving an elected office. They will discuss building and working with a campaign team.

Workshop topics and presenters include:

- \$ *Importance of Women in Politics: What Women Bring to the Table*, Lou Ann Linehan, keynote speaker, Chief of Staff for Senator Chuck Hagel;
- \$ *Making the Decision to Run*, Mary Johnson, Ruth Mueller Robak, LLC, and Kathy Campbell, former Lancaster County Commission;
- \$ *Building a Base*, Brenda Council, former Omaha City Council;
- \$ *Developing a Campaign Budget and Raising Money*, Senator Nancy Thompson and Vicky Kohout
- \$ *Making Political Connections*, Mary Barrett of The Barrett Group, LLC.

Fashioned after the original *Ready to RunJ* conference held in New Jersey, the program is the product of the Center for American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers and the State University of New Jersey. The *Ready to RunJ* workshop will increase awareness of opportunities and processes for participants on a larger political scale, promote active involvement of women wanting to work in government and school districts, and create a viable support network for women entering the electoral system.

LLWC was formed in 1976 to work toward eliminating social, economic and legal barriers that prevent women from choosing their present and future roles in the family, the labor force, education and society in general. The commission's strategic planning goals center on Women in Leadership and Public Policy and Health Care issues.